GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2630
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF PASSPORT OFFICES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had reviewed the functioning of Passport Offices in the country ;

(b) if so, the period covered under the last review;

(c) whether there is a need to review them again; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a),(b),(c) & (d) The process of simplification and streamlining of passport issuance system is a continuous process. An inter-ministerial Committee to review the Passport Issue System was constituted by the Government and it has since submitted its recommendations which have been accepted. The recommendations include the proposal to decentralise passport services to enable acceptance of passport application forms at District level, and its implementation has already commenced. Application forms are already being accepted at the designated speed post passport collection centres. Another recommendation already implemented relates to the simplification of the police verification process which would enable certain categories of persons, whose identity and nationality are well established, to be issued passports without police verification.